

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1710

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), LI, RH, OAU, SO, ET
SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO PRESIDENT
CARTER ON ZIMBABWE AND HORN OF AFRICA

REF: MONROVIA 1662

PRESIDENT TOLBERT, MARCH 10, PRESONALLY HANDED AMBASSADOR
CARTER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
CARTER FOR HIS POLICIES REGARDING ZIMBABWE AND THE HORN
OF AFRICA, WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE MESSAGE BE FORWARDED
TELEGRAPHICALLY:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH GRAVE CONCERN RECENT DEVELOP-
MENTS ON THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM ESPECIALLY THE NEW AND
COMPLEX DIMINSIONS WHICH HAVE EMERGED AS A CONSEQUENCE
OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS AND
I HASTEN TO EXPRESS MY CONCURRENCE WITH AND SUPPORT FOR
YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, AS REVEALED BY YOU ON
YESTERDAY, THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO ORGANIZE A
NEW CONFERENCE INVOLVING ALL OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST
MOVEMENTS SO AS TO ENDEAVOUR TO RECONCILE THE DISPARITIES
BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL ANGLO/AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND THE
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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. I HAVE
ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT THE ANGLO/AMERICAN PROPOSAL
CONTAINED MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS AND COULD THEREFORE
SERVE AS A GOOD BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO MAJORITY
RULE AND INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE. ON THE OTHER HAND,
THE INTERNAL ACCORD MAY ALSO HAVE SOME USEFUL ELEMENTS
WHICH COULD COMPLEMENT THE ANGLO/AMERICAN PLAN.

THE CHALLENGE THUS POSED IS TO RECONCILE THE DIVERGENT
VIEWS OF THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE
LEADERS OF OTHER
ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS SO AS TO FORMULATE A
SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. I AM THEREFORE
APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR EFFORTS TO CONVENE A MEETING OF
ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST LEADERS POSSIBLY IN NEW YORK
WITHIN A FEW DAYS SO THAT THE CHASM CURRENTLY DIVIDING
THEM MAY BE BRIDGED AND FURTHER ESCALATION OF WARFARE
IN ZIMBABWE AVOIDED. IT WAS IN RECOGNITION OF THE
DILEMMA WHICH COULD EASILY ARISE FROM HASTY CONCLUSIONS
ON PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT I STRONGLY
CAUTIONED IN MY RECENT STATEMENT, EXCERPTS OF WHICH I
SENT YOU, AGAINST OUTRIGHT CONDEMNATION OF THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT. FOR WHILE I APPRECIATE THE ROLE OF THE
ARMED STRUGGLE IN OCCASIONING THE TALKS, I ENVISAGE
THAT A CONDEMNATION COULD COMPLETELY ALIENATE THOSE WHO
HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS, WIDEN THE RIFT AND DEEPEN
THE POLARIZATION BETWEEN THE NATIONALIST WITHIN AND
OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY. THUS WE HAVE CONSTANTLY URGED
THAT THE DOORS OF NEGOTIATION BE LEFT OPENED AND
INSISTED THAT ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATE IN THE EVOLUTION
OF A JUST SETTLEMENT. WE ARE THEREFORE HEARTENED BY THE
TIMELY INITIATIVES WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT IS TAKING
AND WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS.

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IN THE SAME VEIN I EXTEND TO YOU MY HIGH COMMENDATION
FOR THE EFFECTIVE ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED IN CAUSING THE
SOMALI GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW ITS REGULAR FORCES FROM
THE OGADEN. YOUR SUGGESTION THAT THE CUBANS AND RUSSIANS
ALSO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM THE TROUBLED REGION IS
INDEED A WHOLESOME ONE FOR IF HEEDED COULD FACILITATE
THE TASK OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION
TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER AND FIND A JUST SOLUTION
TO THIS PROBLEM PLAGUING THE HORN OF AFRICA WITHIN THE
AFRICAN CONTEXT. WITH RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM, SINCERELY, WR TOLBERT, JR.
END TEXT.
CARTER

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